

Remarks/Arguments:

Initially, the applicant would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended to Kerry S. Culpepper (Reg. No, 45,672) in the interview of September 9, 2008, during which the merits of the outstanding office action were discussed.

Claims 12-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 7,043,532 to Humpleman *et al.* (hereafter: "Humpleman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,136,914 to Motoyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 recites *inter alia* an electronic device including an operation information transmission part which transmits the operation information at a request of the access device, the access device storing a server identifier of the server device and requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device.

Because the electronic device according to this novel configuration transmits the operation information after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device, it can achieve the advantage of permitting an access device to externally access an electronic device which may have a dynamically changing global IP address and port number. The problem of dynamically changing addresses and port number is discussed on pgs. 2-3 of the background.

Humpleman describes a home network 10 that includes client devices 12 having a user interface such as a GUI display 18 and server devices 14 having a graphical control object (GCO) user interface description 22 for user interface with a server control program. For control between a controlling client device 12 and a controlled server device 14, the client device 12 accesses the GCO 22 of the server device 14 by, for example, transferring the GCO 22 from the server device 14 to the client device 12 over the network.

However, the client device 12 and/or the server device 14 fail to teach or suggest the electronic device called for in claim 12. Particularly, the client device 12 receives the GCO 22 of the server device rather than transmitting operation information at a request of an access device as called for by the operation information transmission part recited in claim 12. Although the server device 14 transmits the GCO 22 to the client device 12, the server device

14 does not transmit the GCO 22 after an access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device as called for in claim 12.

As conceded in the office action, "Humbleman fails to explicitly disclose that the server device transmits the locator of the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device." See pg. 4 of the Office Action of 28 May 2008. The examiner has cited Motoyama in order to cure the deficient teachings of Humbleman.

Motoyama describes a system including a main server 100 for controlling each of the devices connected thereto, in particular an entertainment device 114, the appliance 116 and the environmental device 118, as well as the scanner 106, fax machine 108, and printers 102, 104.

In one example, a main server 300 receives a request from a mobile terminal 306 specifying a file located on a file server of the main server 300. The main server 300 opens the requested file and sends data packets to the mobile terminal 316 to permit the mobile terminal to view the file. The mobile terminal 306 can also send data packets to the main server 300 requesting printing of the file. The main server 300 sends the data packets to the printer 308 for printing. However, in this example, the mobile terminal 306 does not receive a locator of the printer 308 or the file server from the main server or any other entity (discussion corresponding to col. 11).

In another example, the system can include a control device 800 for controlling the electronic devices. The control device 800 can request identification and control menu information from some or all of the electronic devices on the network. For example, in FIG. 11, the control device 800 communicates directly with printers 'Orion' and 'N4025'. However, the control device 800 does not receive the locator information from the main server as called for in claim 12. Rather, as discussed above, the identification information is transmitted directly from the electronic device concerned. Although Motoyama describes the main server 100 converting the menu information from the electronic device concerned to a communication protocol understandable by the control device 800, the interpreted menu information does not amount to the recited locator information.

Moreover, the approach in Motoyama does not solve the problem of accessing an electronic device having a dynamically changing global IP address and port number from an

external device. The electronic device recited in claim 12 solves this problem by having the electronic apparatus transmit the operation information after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device. Without this limitation, the access device may not receive the correct locator for the electronic device.

Therefore, because Humpleman and Motoyama both fail to teach or suggest an electronic device including an operation information transmission part which transmits the operation information at a request of the access device, the access device storing a server identifier of the server device and requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 12, as well as dependent claims 13, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 14 recites an information processing method including transmitting operation information, at a request; storing a server identifier of the server device, in the access device; requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device and transmitting, by the server device the locator of the electronic device after the access device is verified to have access to the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device.

As discussed above, Humpleman and Motoyama fail to teach or suggest transmitting, by the server device the locator of the electronic device after the access device is verified to have access to the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device. Therefore, the rejection of claim 14, as well as dependent claims 15 and 17, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

New claims 19-24 are presented for examination. These claims recite features that further distinguish the present invention from the art of record.

Support for new claims 19-20 can be found on, for example, pg. 31, lines 14-20. Further, new claims 19-20 depend from claims 12 and 14. Therefore, new claims 19-20 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 12 and 14.

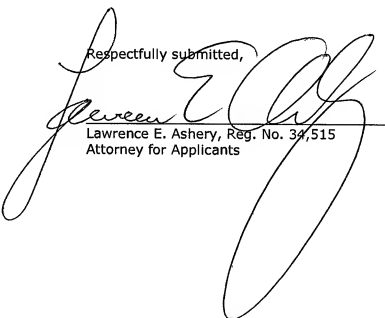
Support for new claim 21 can be found on, for example, FIG. 2 and pgs. 13-14. Claim 21 also recites wherein the locator of the electronic device is transmitted by the server device responsive to the access device being permitted to access the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted by the operation information transmission part after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device. As discussed above, Humpleman and Motoyama fail to teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, new claim 21 should be in condition for allowance.

Support for new claim 22 can be found on, for example, pg. 31, lines 14-20. Further, new claim 22 depend from claim 21. Therefore, new claim 22 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 21.

Support for new claims 23-24 can also be found on, for example, pg. 31, lines 14-20. New claims 23-24 depend from claims 12 and 14. Therefore, new claims 23-24 should be in condition for allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 12 and 14.

Further regarding new claim 19-20 and 22-24, these claims further specify that the locator of the electronic device is dynamically changing. Humpleman and Motoyama fail to teach or suggest this feature.

Respectfully submitted,


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